



## ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Dr. Tom W. Kimbrell, Commissioner*

### NEWS RELEASE

August 21, 2013

#### **Education Commissioner names members of Charter Authorizing Panel**

**LITTLE ROCK** – Commissioner of Education Dr. Tom Kimbrell is pleased to announce the names of the Arkansas Department of Education staff who will serve with him as members of the Charter Authorizing Panel. The panel met today for the first time.

Kimbrell will serve as the chair of the panel, and Dr. Megan Witonski, Assistant Commissioner, Learning Services, will serve as vice-chair. Other members are Jim Boardman, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Research and Technology; Mike Hernandez, Assistant Commissioner, Fiscal and Administrative Services; John Hoy, Assistant Commissioner, Academic Accountability; Dr. Karen Walters, Assistant Commissioner, Human Resources and Licensure; and Deborah Coffman, Chief of Staff.

“In keeping with the intent of the Arkansas Quality Charter Schools Act of 2013, signed into law by Governor Beebe in March, the Charter Authorizing Panel will encourage and support the growth of high-quality Arkansas charters.” Kimbrell said.

The Arkansas Quality Charter Schools Act of 2013 designates the Charter School Authorizing Panel as the primary authorizer for all charters in the state and requires the commissioner to appoint Arkansas Department of Education staff to serve on the panel.

The panel will oversee the authorization, renewal, revision, and revocation of charters. Charter Authorizing Panel 2013-2014 meeting dates are below. All meetings will be held at 8:30 a.m. in the ADE auditorium.

- November 12, 2013
- November 13, 2013
- January 15, 2014
- January 16, 2014
- February 12, 2014
- April 16, 2014

- May 14, 2014



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